

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**

Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures
(Final; Action)

SP.12.08 Adjustment of numbers used in calculating size of Faculty Voting Units.

BACKGROUND

As the Clerk of the Senate has assembled materials to initiate this winter's election of next year's Senate, USSP has determined that an adjustment needs to be made in the numbers used to determine the size of faculty voting units. Unfortunately, following this past summer's transition in the staff of the Senate office, the records have been found to be incomplete. In reconstructing the material regarding voting units, the Clerk has discovered that following the formula stated in the Constitution strictly, given recent changes in the size of the faculty, would result in a faculty membership of 169 rather than the 200 desired by the Constitution. Although arriving at a Senate of exactly 200 faculty has not been achieved over the past few years, USSP is concerned that a membership as low as 169 is a significant matter which should be brought to the Senate for resolution by adjusting numbers as authorized in the Constitution Article II, Section 4. That provision reads:

Section 4. A voting unit having seven members of the faculty electorate is entitled to elect one senator from its membership. For each 12 members of the faculty electorate over the initial seven, the unit shall elect an additional senator. Prior to each election, the Senate shall retain or adjust the numbers 7 or 12 or both by whole numbers to ensure that after such election the total number of senators from the faculty electorate shall be as close to 200 as possible.

Insofar as the language of the Constitution, and the legislative history of its adoption puts primary emphasis on the goal of 200 for faculty representation, USSP recommends that the Senate make the necessary adjustment by adopting the numbers of 5 and 10 in place of the numbers of 7 and 12 to arrive at a faculty electorate as close to 200 as possible. The proposed numbers would be consistent with the logic of the Senate when it first adopted the formula, and maintain the principle that each department would have a senate seat. USSP further recommends that the Senate mandate that the Clerk of the Senate conduct an analysis of departmental size no later than the beginning of November each year to enable future adjustments to be made by the Senate in a timely fashion.

Historical Background to 7/12 Voting Unit Size.

In 1969//70, the Senate charged the Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures with the task of preparing a report on the long-standing issue of how the Senate might be reconstituted. USSP's April 21, 1970 *USSP Report on Reconstitution of the Senate* stated that the then present Senate consisted of "approximately 1,010 professors, a dozen or so administrative officials, 120 elected associate and assistant professors, 33 faculty members appointed to Senate Committees, and 38 students who have varying floor and voting privileges by virtue of committee membership."

The Committee reported its unanimous consensus that among the alternatives for the size of the new Senate, the one most likely to provide responsible action, most able to respond to the coming pressures and problems, and the one most likely to be representative would be a smaller body numbering in the range of 200 to 300. Its *Report* (IV.B) recommended "That the Senate approve in principle the reconstitution of the Senate from its present size to a smaller representative body of a size and makeup to be determined." (Note that as of Senate's May 4, 1970 approval of this recommendation, the Senate had not yet decided on the size of student representation.)

On the question V.B "How do the Faculty Select Their Representatives" the Committee's consensus was to build the election process around voting units oriented to the academic organization of the campus, using the department or its equivalent as the basic unit because. It noted that the wide diversity of departments would provide "a more balanced and varied Senate body, particularly if each voting unit is as a general proposition entitled to at least one representative." Recommendation V.B.4 stated: "That each voting unit having at least 7 faculty shall elect from its membership one member to the reconstituted Senate. For each 12 voting members over the initial 7 it shall elect an additional member to the reconstituted Senate." This recommendation was approved by the Senate on May 25, 1970.

Following discussion and intermediate amendments, the USSP's April, 1970 *Report on Reconstitution of the Senate* was approved by the Senate on June 3, 1970 with no changes to the "7/12" provision. Since nothing was reported about the discussion of this provision, the only insight to the choice of the number 12 is provided by the report's statement: "The number 12 comes from dividing the total eligible faculty by a number sufficient to provide a Senate of between 180 and 210 elected persons [faculty], the range that the Committee judges to be optimum from the viewpoint of providing broad representation without getting too large to be unwieldy. The figure of course can be adjusted up or down easily"

A minor grammatical amendment was made to the clause now known as Senate Constitution, Article II, Section 4 on November 9, 1970, and at that same meeting the Senate approved the new Constitution with only three dissenting votes. The newly constituted Senate of 204 faculty and 50 student senators convened for its first Organizational Meeting on May 13, 1971.

Supporting Data.

The 2011/12 Senate has 183 faculty seats. The number of verified faculty eligible to vote in the 2012/13 Senate Elections is: 2,014. The following table illustrates the size of Senate that would result using different possibilities for the number of faculty required for a department to have a single seat and for additional seats. Note that currently, the smallest department has 5 faculty, and there is only one of this size, none with 6 faculty, and five with 7 faculty.¹

Number of faculty needed to secure first senate seat	Number needed to secure additional seat(s)	Resultant Senate Size
7	12	169
7	11	179
7	10	192
7	9	208
6	12	175
6	11	183
6	10	198
6	9	214
5	12	177
5	11	193
5	10	205
5	9	220

¹By comparison, when the Senate was reconstituted in 1970, 17 departments had only one senate seat. The voting units consisted of 7 faculty (two were at this size), one department had 8 faculty, one had 9, three had 10, etc. Three other very small faculty units (having 3, 4, and 6 respectively) were “merged” with two larger voting units.